

... Your Teen At Work



No job is worth your child's life!

For more information for parents about the law and safety for young workers, go to:

www.WorkSmartOntario.gov.on.ca

and

www.youngworker.ca

If you need help with a concern about safety in your teen's workplace, call the local office of the Ontario Ministry of Labour (listed in the blue pages of your phone book) or 1-800-268-8013.

You send your teenagers to driving school to become safer, smarter drivers, so why not give them the same advantage in the workplace? A \$9.00 lifetime Passport to Safety membership provides a standardized safety test, a nationally recognized safety transcript for young workers to attach to their résumés, and 24/7 access to workplace safety resources. Find out more about it at: www.passporttosafety.com

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Tips for Parents

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Questions to ask your teen:

- ☐ Was safety orientation training and information on rules of the workplace provided by your boss?
- ☐ Does your supervisor work in or near your work area?
- ☐ Does your supervisor provide on-the-job performance feedback, including information and advice on how to work safely?
- ☐ Do you report concerns to your supervisor and do you feel comfortable doing so?
- ☐ What tasks do you normally perform at work?
Familiarize yourself with the place they work, the people and the jobs they perform. Ask around and make sure you're comfortable that it's a safe place to be. (You wouldn't be the first parent to show up at your teen's workplace!)
- ☐ Are you tired at work?
Keep an eye on the balance in your teenager's life. It's a fact that teens develop cognitively and physically into their early 20s, so they have an increased need for sleep. A hurried cycle of full-time school, homework, social life and work (especially more than a few hours on the weekend) combined with a lack of rest can create fatigue, leading to poor performance in school and an increased risk of injury at work and while driving.
- ☐ Do you have to climb or work at heights? Do you lift and carry heavy objects?
If the answer is yes, ask how they were trained and what equipment they use to do these things safely.
- ☐ Do you know what kind of protective equipment to wear and have you been trained to use it properly?
You wouldn't let your kids out the door to play hockey without full gear, so don't let them go to work without any safety equipment the employer requires them to wear or bring to work (safety shoes, protective eyewear, a hairnet).
- ☐ Do you work with chemicals? Have you received training in their proper use?
WHMIS training must be provided to workers using chemicals. Ask if they know about labels and material safety data sheets.
- ☐ Do you know that it is important for you to report to your supervisor any injury you receive?
If your teen is injured on the job, know that compensation for injured workers isn't only for older workers. Check with the Workplace Safety & Insurance Board at www.wsib.on.ca or 1-800-387-0750 to find out about your teen's rights.

Age does matter...

Minimum Age Requirements for Working in Ontario	
14 years old	Establishments such as offices, stores, arenas, and restaurant serving areas.
15 years old	Factories (other than logging operations), restaurant kitchens and warehouses.
16 years old	Construction, a surface mine (except the working face); logging operations; mining plants.
18 years old	Underground mining or a working face of a surface mine; window cleaning.